



November 6, 2014

FAC Spotlight: COT's Team of Bluegrass Pickers

For the last 12 year's or so, the Commonwealth Office of Technology's Jim Webb and Robb Cabe have been pickin' a banjo or pluckin' an upright bass and bringing old time Kentucky roots music to the stage. Both Webb and Cabe have played since they were youngsters having mostly been taught by family or members of bands they were in.

"My dad made musical instruments and taught me to play the banjo, said Webb. "I'm a fourth generation player and briefly studied music formally at Prestonsburg Community College and Morehead State University."

Cabe said his musical journey started with a rock band in 1977 and over the last 12 years he's has had the great fortune of playing in several bands with Jim Webb, who, according to Cabe, is a "very talented bluegrass teacher/soothsayer from eastern Kentucky."

Currently Webb and Cabe play with the Leestown String Band whose members include Dan Atkins (formerly with COT) and John Harrod, a Frankfort native, fiddle expert and Rhodes Scholar. Both Webb and Cabe previously played with the band Hot Chocolate and the Marshmellows.

The Leestown String Band plays Old Time, Jug Band, Gospel and Bluegrass music concentrating on Kentucky styles of playing. This year the band has been on the Old Time Festival circuit performing many shows in Lexington and Louisville, with their biggest show at the Berea Festival of Traditional Music.

Cabe said one of his favorite places to play are senior homes. "I love how some of the people light up when we play the mountain or bluegrass tunes. Some of the best times I've ever had playing music, period!"



L-R: Robb Cabe, Jim Webb, Dan Atkins, John Harrod

Kudos Korner

Accolades for COT's Customer Service

On a Wednesday, you get a call from the Governor's Office saying they need a major print job for a mailing to go out that Saturday. If you're in COT, what do you do?

By the way...the mailing is more than 1 million pages...and you have less than three days to do it...

If you're Tommy Tackett and Revel Lewis, in COT's Division of IT Operations, you roll up your sleeves, work closely with your colleagues, keep the printers going constantly and put in some extra hours.

Bill Kidd, assistant director of IT Operations said he couldn't be more proud of his team. "I'm proud to say that Tommy and Revel, with the assistance of operations 1st, 2nd & 3rd shift personnel, we were able to complete the printing and delivery of the letters by 2:00 pm on Saturday, which was far ahead of our anticipated time frame. I want to thank all the operations staff who were involved."

This major print job represented approximately a quarter of the monthly print volume in a 30 day period. And, it was in addition to the normal print volumes and daily print demands already in place.

KUDOS to IT Operations!



When asked what his favorite thing is about performing, Webb said it's all about getting totally absorbed in the music and having others enjoy it.

Webb plays banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and upright bass fluently and many musicians in the Frankfort area have sought him out for lessons. Jim sings high tenor (and just about any other part that's needed for tight harmony). He's currently teaching banjo to his identical twin sons hoping to ensure there's a fifth generation of Webb banjo pickers.

"I grew up in Martin County and loved being around my dad, who has the oldest music store in eastern Kentucky, and a slew of musicians from Martin, Lawrence and Johnson counties," said Webb. "They brought so much energy and talent together, whether playing for an audience or just sitting around pickin'. I learned so much."

Rob Cabe has been a programmer with COT for 17 years. He's not a 'native' Kentuckian, "but got here as fast as I could from South Carolina!" Webb has been with COT since the IT consolidation project began a year or so ago. Prior to that he was with Transportation as well as Governor Patton's office.

For more information on the Leestown String Band, check out Facebook.

Woodcarving Demonstrations at Berea Artisan Center

Center offers unique gifts for holidays

Looking for unique holiday gifts or just want something different to do on a Saturday afternoon?



Angel carving
by Oris Stanton

If so, you might want to check out the Berea Welcome Center Carvers who will demonstrate a variety of woodcarving styles and techniques from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea. Carving that day will be David Buzzard, of Lexington, John Ferguson, of Somerset and Peter Gerton, of Berea.

Members specialize in a wide variety of techniques and styles of carving. Carvers in the group often mentor each other, and all enjoy sharing their love of woodcarving, making their demonstrations at the Kentucky Artisan Center a mix of humor, technique and storytelling.

Woodcarving has many functional and decorative formats – from functional hand-hewn dough bowls to in-the-round caricature carvings, to decorative chip or low-relief carving on wooden tiles, spoons and walking sticks. Most woodcarvers begin their work using basic woodcarving knives. Some carvers use a chain saw while others use Dremmel rotary tools to create precise details. The finished surfaces of carvings can be either left plain, oiled or painted, depending on the whim of the carver and the desired finished result.



Santa by
David Buzzard

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea Exit 77. The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the cafe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea currently features works by more than 700 artisans from more than 100 counties across the Commonwealth. Special exhibits on display include "Put a Lid on It: Containers by Kentucky Artisans," through Feb. 28, 2015. For more information about events call 859-985-5448, go to the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov or visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kentucky.artisan.center.

Check out gift shops at other Kentucky state parks for fun and different gifts from around the state.

Saluting the Flag. Protocol states that the U.S. flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously; saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

Local Boy Scout Troop 269 Color Guard Raises Flags at Office of Application Development's New Location

Carla Hawkins, director of the Office of Application Development, wanted a special ceremony to raise the U.S. and Kentucky flags outside OAD's new offices at 669 Chamberlin Lane. She contacted Scott Wood, with the Dept. for Facilities and Support Services, to inquire about local Boy Scout Troop 269 doing the honors.

On a beautiful, sunny morning earlier this week, the flags were raised. They are illuminated and will fly 24/7. Pictures from the ceremony are below.



L-R: Billy Smith (Scoutmaster), Damien Clifford, Trey Jordan, Charles Cassidy, Carlin Cassidy, Calvin Andries, Mike Eads (Assistant Scoutmaster), and Hershail Tharp (Assistant Scoutmaster)

Tying the halyard knot

